



Responsible Policing is our Mission.

## **“Protecting our Community Through Responsible Policing and the Relentless Pursuit of Crime”**

This Mission Statement of the Covina Police Department was created by our staff in 2017. This promise defines our purpose, demonstrates our resolve, and highlights the importance of policing our community the right way.

We are listening and continually seeking ways to improve.







### **BAN CHOKEHOLDS AND STRANGLEHOLDS**

CPD policy does not permit the use of a "choke hold" (*section 300.3.4*) or any other technique intended to stop the flow of air into a person's lungs. CPD has also suspended the use of the Carotid Control Hold in accordance with State recommendations.

### **REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION**

De-escalation is a fundamental responsibility of law enforcement. CPD policy (*section 300*) dictates that officers "use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary." Techniques including active listening, body-language, empathy and physical distance are reinforced through training.

### **REQUIRE WARNING BEFORE SHOOTING**

CPD policy requires an officer to give a verbal warning preceding the use of deadly force whenever feasible. (*Penal Code Section 835a*)

### **EXHAUST ALL OTHER MEANS BEFORE SHOOTING**

CPD requires officers to use a "reasonable" amount of force based upon the threat that is faced. "In determining whether deadly force is necessary, officers shall evaluate each situation in light of the particular circumstance of each case and shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible to an objectively reasonable officer." (*Penal Code section 835a*)

### **REQUIRE A USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM**

CPD's arrest and control tactics program utilizes a Use of Force "Paradigm" rather than a continuum. A continuum implies that officers must exhaust lower levels of force even with this might not be feasible. A paradigm allows officers to choose the right amount of force based on the situation. (*section 300.2*)

### **DUTY TO INTERCEDE**

CPD policy (*section 300.2.1*) explicitly requires officers to intervene when they observe another officer using force beyond what is objectively reasonable. Officers are guilty of failure to intervene where excessive force was apparent, and the officer had the opportunity to intervene and failed to do so.





#### **BAN SHOOTING AT MOVING VEHICLES**

CPD policy addresses shooting at or from moving vehicles. This policy (*section 300.4.1*) discourages these actions and requires officers to move out of the path of an approaching vehicle instead of shooting at it, when feasible. Officers are only permitted to shoot at a moving vehicle to avert the threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at officers or others.



#### **REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING**

CPD policy (*section 300.5*) requires that officers document all uses of force promptly, completely, and accurately. Reports are approved by a supervisor and all use of force incidents are scrutinized by supervisors and command staff to determine whether reasonable and within policy. Incidents where a firearm is discharged or that result in serious bodily injury are reported to the California Department of Justice.